

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jack Friedman on 09/08/2008.

Please amend the following claims:

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the method further comprises:

determining whether said inserting one or more contiguous elements would corrupt another RSTI in the data table, wherein **[[a]]** said another RSTI is corrupted if said another RSTI is no longer structured according to its associated RST, and wherein the at least one consistency condition comprises that said determining has determined that said inserting one or more contiguous elements would corrupt said another RSTI in the data table.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein said method further comprises:

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determining whether said inserting one or more contiguous elements would corrupt another STI in the data table, wherein [[a]] said another STI is corrupted if said another STI is no longer structured according to its associated ST, and wherein the at least one consistency condition comprises that said determining has determined that said inserting one or more contiguous elements would corrupt said another STI in the data table.

28. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 24, wherein the method further comprises:

determining whether said inserting one or more contiguous elements would corrupt another RSTI in the data table, wherein [[a]] said another RSTI is corrupted if said another RSTI is no longer structured according to its associated RST, and wherein the at least one consistency condition comprises that said determining has determined that said inserting one or more contiguous elements would corrupt said another RSTI in the data table.

30. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 24, wherein said method further comprises:

determining whether said inserting one or more contiguous elements would corrupt another STI in the data table, wherein [[a]] said another STI is corrupted if said another STI is no longer structured according to its associated ST, and wherein the at least one consistency condition comprises that said determining has determined that

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said inserting one or more contiguous elements would corrupt said another STI in the data table.

38. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 34, wherein the method further comprises:

determining whether said inserting one or more contiguous elements would corrupt another RSTI in the data table, wherein [[a]] said another RSTI is corrupted if said another RSTI is no longer structured according to its associated RST, and wherein the at least one consistency condition comprises that said determining has determined that said inserting one or more contiguous elements would corrupt said another RSTI in the data table.

40. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 34, wherein said method further comprises:

determining whether said inserting one or more contiguous elements would corrupt another STI in the data table, wherein [[a]] said another STI is corrupted if said another STI is no longer structured according to its associated ST, and wherein the at least one consistency condition comprises that said determining has determined that said inserting one or more contiguous elements would corrupt said another STI in the data table.

Drawings

The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant:

Replacement drawings will be provided for the following figures: Figures 2-6 are blurry and unreadable. Figures 13A, 16A and 16B are illegible, as are Figures 21A and 21B.

Figure 20F appears to be blank for elements 2270-2275, which are referenced in the Specification at p. 19-20, therefore a replacement drawing may be required.

In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicants' invention is directed to the management of insertion operations for a recursive scalable template instance a data table having rows and columns, preferably a spreadsheet (Specification, p. 3-4; p. 6, l. 45-p. 9, l. 37). While the prior art discloses the use of templates for formatting the rows and columns of data tables, the prior art does not disclose the specific combination of limitations of independent claim 14, in particular the portions in bold text:

A method for managing insertion operations in a recursive scalable template instance (RSTI) of a multi-dimensional electronic data table having a first data table

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*dimension (D 1) and a second data table dimension (D2), said RSTI comprising a plurality of contiguous recursive element instances (REIs) ordered and aligned along the dimension D1, **at least two REIs having a different size along the dimension D1, each REI having a same size along the dimension D2**, each REI comprising at least one scalable template instance (STI), said method implemented by execution of a computer program by a processor of a computer system, said method comprising:*

inserting, upon satisfaction of at least one consistency condition, one or more contiguous elements after or before a selected element in a first STI of at the least one STI of a first REI of the plurality of REIs of the RSTI, the RSTI structured according to an associated recursive scalable template (RST), said RST comprising a recursive element (RE) including at least one scalable template (ST), each STI of each REI structured according to an associated ST of the at least one ST, each STI of each REI having a first dimension aligned along the dimension D 1 and a second dimension aligned along the dimension D2, an element being defined as a range of data that comprises at least one datum, the one or more contiguous elements structured according to a first ST associated with the first STI; and

adjusting a size of the first REI along the dimension D1 according to a size of a largest STI in the first REI, all REIs of the RSTI remaining contiguous without overlapping after said inserting the one or more contiguous elements and after said adjusting the size of the first REI.

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Independent claims 24 and 34 contain similar limitations and are allowable for the same reasons.

Further, the prior art does not disclose recursive scalable templates being used with the particular combination of steps in the algorithm as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Lecolinet, "A molecular architecture for creating advanced GUIs", Proceedings, UIST 2003, published 2003 by ACM, p. 135-144.

Rothermel, et al., "A Methodology for Testing Spreadsheets", ACM Transactions on Software Engineering and Methodology, Vol. 10, No. 1, January 2001, p. 110-147.

Szekely, et al., "Beyond interface builders: model-based interface tools", Proceedings of the INTERACT '93 and CHI '93 conference on Human factors in computing systems, published 1993, ACM, p. 383-390.

Barger et al.	U.S. Patent No. 7,246,311 B2	issued	July 2007
Smialek	U.S. Patent No. 7,089,256 B2	issued	August 2006
Mogilevsky et al.	U.S. Patent No. 7,051,276 B1	issued	May 2006
Guttman et al.	U.S. Patent No. 6,988,241 B1	issued	January 2006

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AMELIA RUTLEDGE whose telephone number is (571)272-7508. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:30 - 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doug Hutton can be reached on 571-272-4137. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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